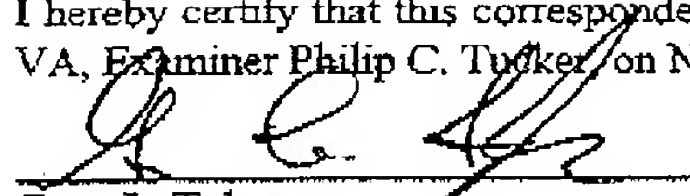


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Gene L. Tyler

**IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE**

Serial Application No.: 10/045,221

Inventor: David J. Poelker, et al.

Filing Date: 11/07/2001

Title: Copolymers Useful for Gelling  
Acids§  
§  
§  
§  
§  
§  
§

Examiner: Philip C. Tucker

Art Unit: 1712

Attorney Docket #194-26699-US

**RESPONSE TO OFFICE ACTION MAILED 08/15/03**

In response to the Examiner's office action in the above named and numbered patent application, wherein Claims 1-19 stand as rejected and Claim 20 is withdrawn from consideration, the applicant makes the following amendments and comments and respectfully requests allowance of the claims as amended.

**Table of Contents**

Amendments to the Claims begin on page 2 of this response.

Remarks regarding the amendments begin on page 6 of this response.

Arguments regarding the rejections begin on page 7 of this response.